

## **Amendment 2156 - Eliminate DOD non-defense spending and transfer duplicative programs to other agencies**

Defending our nation and protecting the inalienable rights of every citizen guaranteed by our Constitution are the primary responsibilities of the U.S. federal government.

Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mullen warned “the single, biggest threat to our national security is our debt.”<sup>1</sup>

Most Americans likely believe the more than \$600 billion annual defense budget is entirely directed toward the defense of our nation. **Yet billions of defense dollars are being spent on programs and missions with little or nothing to do with defense.**

**This amendment stops spending limited taxpayer dollars on defense programs that have little to do with national security and could save billions over 10 years.**

The recommendations to cut non-defense spending in *Department of Everything* published in 2012 could save as much as \$67.9 billion over ten years **without cutting any Army brigade combat teams, Navy combat ships, or Air Force fighter squadrons.**

- \$6 billion for non-military research and development – what did we get for that?
  - A study on slang and dialect usage by Twitter users
  - An iPhone app that alerts you when you need a cup of coffee
  - A study of fish to provide insights into human “political behavior”
  - \$1.5 million to develop beef jerky!
  - Breast cancer, lung cancer, and prostate cancer research that duplicate efforts by the National Institute of Health (NIH)<sup>2</sup>
- \$10 billion for education
  - The report found U.S.-based DOD schools cost over \$50,000 per student, compared to the Department of Education’s average annual cost per student of \$11,000
- \$9 billion for grocery stores, an outdated model given the access to reduced prices at Walmart (located within 10 miles of most U.S. bases)
- \$37 billion for overhead, support and supply services
  - More than 340,000 active duty personnel serve in commercial-type jobs such as supply, transportation, and communication services

---

<sup>1</sup> Marshall, Tyrone, “Debt is Biggest Threat to National Security, Chairman Says,” American Forces Press Service, September 22, 2011, <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=65432>. Accessed February 13, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pentagon-cancer-research-budget-comes-under-scrutiny/2011/03/10/ABq7S5R\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pentagon-cancer-research-budget-comes-under-scrutiny/2011/03/10/ABq7S5R_story.html)

- \$700 million for renewable energy programs that duplicate efforts of the Department of Energy
  - Chevy Volts
  - Development of algae as a fuel for ships and fighter jets – at four times the cost of regular fuel
  - Wind turbines that produced only “sporadic usable power”

**Budgets represent choices and priorities—every decision to fund an unnecessary grant or program is a choice not to fund critical training and equipment for our troops.**

DOD spends money on programs that are already being performed by other government entities and agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Energy (DOE), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

In 2011, then Secretary Gates declared, "We must come to realize that not every defense program is necessary, not every defense dollar is sacred or well-spent, and more of everything is simply not sustainable."<sup>3</sup>

**Given our nation’s massive federal debt and the pressures on the defense budget, the Department of Defense should prioritize its spending on higher priority defense needs and programs that directly support its core mission and do not duplicate programs already being conducted in other agencies.**

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/06/AR2011010606646.html>